

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland
 SUBJECT Polish Army Uniforms and Insignia

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REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Summer and Winter Uniforms for Officers and EM

1. Most of the information below concerns the uniforms worn by personnel in the armored branch of service.
 - a. Officers and career NCO's were issued a winter and a summer dress uniform, both of which had stand-up collar blouses. The winter uniform was of wool, and the summer of wool gabardine. Drafted NCO's and privates were issued a winter and a summer dress uniform, both of which had stand-up collar blouses. The material for both was wool twill.
 - b. Two winter service uniforms were issued to officer and career NCO's, both with a roll collar blouse; one was of wool gabardine, the other of wool. The summer uniform was of wool twill with a stand-up collar blouse. The winter and summer service uniforms for drafted NCO's and privates had a stand-up collar blouse and were made of wool.
 - c. Both officers and EM wore their service uniforms in the field.
 - d. I have no knowledge of Polish military women's services or of their uniforms.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X", Field Distribution By "#")

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2. All clothing items were of medium blue, unless otherwise noted, for armored troops.

Officers and Career NCO's

<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Overcoat	Wool	Full-length, with fitted waist, two pleats in back, split in rear skirt.
1	Blouse	Wool	Dress, winter, with stand-up collar.
1 pr.	Trousers	Wool	Dress, winter, with black piping along outer seams, and worn fastened around the ankles.
1	Blouse	Wool gabardine	Service, winter, with roll collar.
1 pr.	Trousers	Wool gabardine	Service, winter.
1	Blouse	Wool	Service, winter, with roll collar.
1 pr.	Trousers	Wool	Service, winter.
1	Blouse	Wool gabardine	Dress, summer, with stand-up collar.
1 pr.	Trousers	Wool gabardine	Dress, summer.
1	Blouse	Wool twill	Service, summer, with stand-up collar.
1 pr.	Trousers	Wool twill	Service, summer, with black piping along outer seams, and worn fastened around the ankles.

Drafted NCO's and Privates

1	Blouse	Wool twill	Dress, winter and summer, with stand-up collar.
1 pr.	Trousers	Wool twill	Dress, winter and summer, with black piping along outer seams.
1	Blouse	Wool	Service, winter.
1 pr.	Trousers	Wool	Service, winter
1	Blouse	Cotton twill	Service, summer, with stand-up collar.
1 pr.	Trousers	Cotton twill	Service, summer, with black piping along outer seams.

Headgear

3. Both officers and EM were issued one service cap and one garrison cap. The service cap was round on top like US style with a black or brownish-black visor. Some officers and EM wore a plain visor, while others wore a visor with a silver metal edge. All caps had a chin strap of the same color as the visor. I saw officers, ranking from lieutenants to majors, and EM wearing garrison caps, mostly for field duty. The cap emblem, worn on both the service and garrison caps, was of silver of zinc alloy. It consisted of an uncrowned Polish eagle with a star at the base of the wing joints and the head turned towards the right. The Air Force eagle emblem was a little larger than that of the Army. I never saw any Polish military personnel wearing helmets or toques.

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25X1AFootwear

4. Officers and career NCO's were issued one pair of black low quarter shoes; one pair of service shoes of rough brown leather; one pair of three-button leggings, the same color as the uniform; and one shoe brush. Drafted NCO's and EM were issued one pair of brownish-black service shoes; one pair of leggings; and one shoe brush. I never saw moccasins or overshoes worn by Polish military personnel.

Accessories

5. Officers and career NCO's were issued one steel gray shirt; one gray tie; one brown or black leather belt with buckle; one web belt for trousers; one pair white flannel footwraps; two pair footwraps of coarse white cloth; and one pair wool long underwear. Drafted NCO's and privates were issued one collarless linen shirt; one brown or black leather belt with buckle; one pair gloves; two pair white flannel footwraps; two pair footwraps of coarse white cloth; two pair white cotton drawers; two white cotton undershirts; and one pair long wool underwear. I never saw or heard of armored personnel having any wearing apparel or accessories issued especially to armored troops.

Equipment

6. Officers and EM were issued the following equipment: two white linen bed sheets; two white coarse cloth pillow cases; two white linen pillow slips; one wool blanket; one straw mattress; one mess kit; one knapsack; and one gas mask. In the winter they received an additional wool blanket. Officers and career NCO's were also issued the following items: one brown leather field pouch; one brown leather field bag; one 7.62 TT magazine pistol; one pistol, TT or a PPSH; and one green canvas shelter half. Drafted NCO's and privates were issued one carbine or PPSH.

Color

7. I can give the following information on color of the various items of the uniform:

<u>Branch of Service</u>	<u>Uniform</u>	<u>Shirt & Tie</u>	<u>Collar Flashes</u>		<u>Hat Band & Crown Piping</u>
			<u>Roll Collar</u>	<u>Stand-up Collar</u>	
Infantry	Greenish OD	Light green	Red	Red	Red
Infantry, Kosciuszko Unit	Greenish OD	Light green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
KBW	Greenish OD	Light green	Blue	Unk.	Blue
WOP	Greenish OD	Light green	Dark green	Unk.	Dark green
Armor	Med. blue	Gray (steel)	Black	Black	Black
Air Force	Med. blue	Med. blue	Dark blue	Unk.	Unk.

8. As to design of blouses, there were two slit pockets and two patch pockets. Officer blouses had a split in the bottom skirt of the blouses.

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25X1AInsignia and Buttons

9. Colors identified the branch of service and were worn at all times. I presume that the colors would be worn into battle. The significance of piping and braid lay in identification of branch of service by color and, in the case of braid, to aid in determining rank. Buttons on uniform clothing and overcoats were of zinc alloy. On blouses, roll-collar and stand-up collar, and overcoats there were five buttons for coat fastening, one on each sleeve cuff, and one for each shoulder loop. There was a stamped Polish uncrowned eagle on each button. I have no information on description, significance, and samples of accessories other than items of clothing. I have never seen or heard of distinctive decalcomania or stickers on military vehicles. A drawing of shoulder loops, rank insignia, and service and garrison caps is attached as Annexes A and B.

Recent Changes in Uniform

10. From personal observation I can state definitely [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the uniform clothing and equipment of Polish officers, NCO's, and EM in the Infantry, Sapper-Engineer, KBW, WOP, and Air Force was of the same style. [redacted] 25X1
I noticed certain changes in uniforms and equipment. The Air Force personnel had a gold-color metal edge on the service cap visor. Sapper-Engineer personnel wore black leather knee-length boots, and in their field equipment they had either a hatchet or an entrenching shovel. I have no further information on recent changes in uniform and equipment.

Shortages

11. I have no information on uniform material shortages or material substitutes.

Changes from Summer to Winter Uniform

12. The change from winter to summer uniform was made in April. The change from summer to winter uniform was made in November.

Wearing of Uniforms by Civilians

13. The uniforms worn by both officers and EM were items of issue and to be turned in upon discharge from the service. A person being demobilized had to make arrangements with his parents or family to have civilian clothing sent to him. I do not recall seeing any former military personnel wearing a uniform after release from the service.

ANNEXES : A. Polish Service Cap Hat Band Insignia
B. Polish Insignia and Ranks

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ANNEX A

Polish Service Cap Hat Band Insignia



Strzelec
Private



Starszy Strzelec
Senior Rifleman



Kapral
Corporal



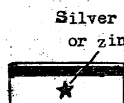
Plutonowy
Junior Sergeant



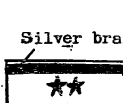
Sierżant
Sergeant



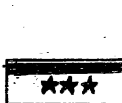
Starszy Sierżant
Senior Sergeant



Pod-porucznik i Chorąży
2d Lt & Warrant Officer



Porucznik
1st Lt



Kapitan
Captain



Major
Major



Pod-pulkownik
Lt Colonel

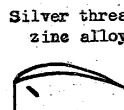


Pulkownik
Colonel



General Brygady
Gen. of Brigade

Polish Garrison Cap Insignia



Starszy Strzelec
Senior Rifleman



Kapral
Corporal



Plutonowy
Junior Sergeant



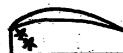
Sierżant
Sergeant



Starszy Sierżant
Senior Sergeant



Pod-porucznik
2d Lt



Porucznik
1st Lt



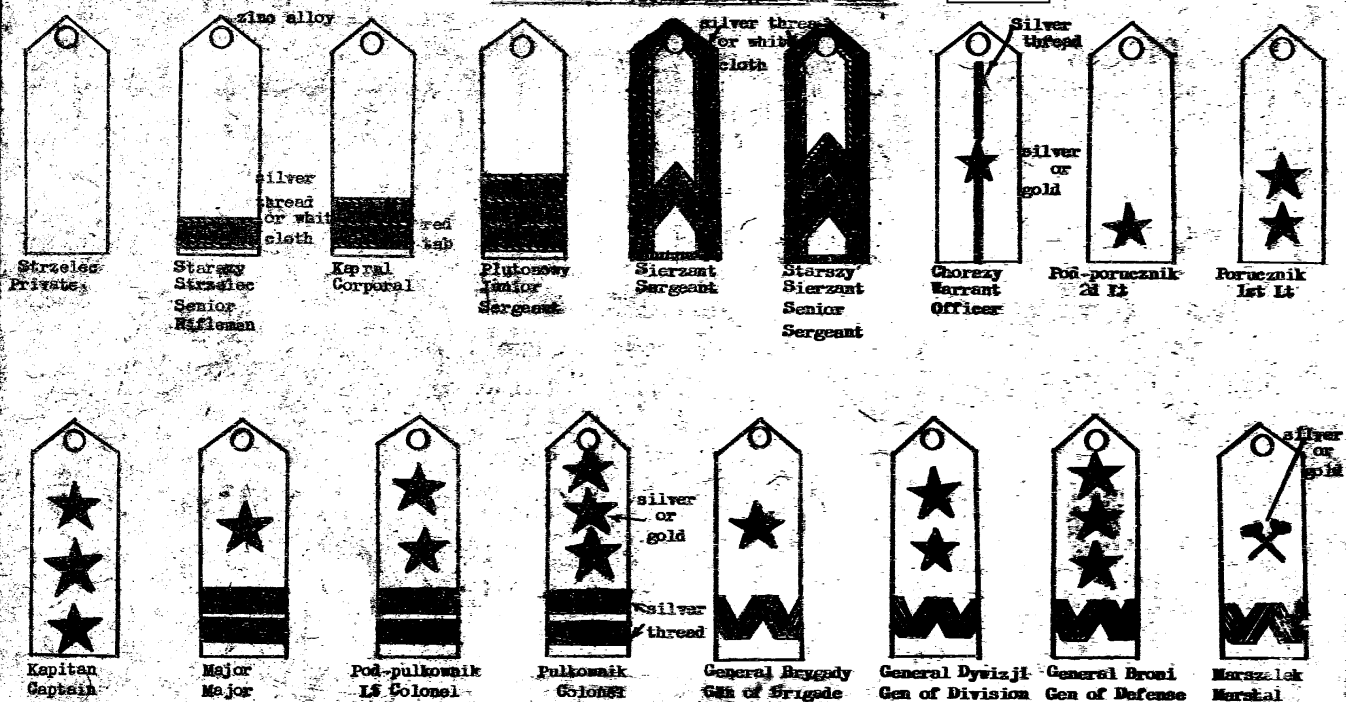
Kapitan
Captain

* General Dywizji (Gen. of Division) - two stars
General Broni (Gen. of Defense) - three stars
Marszałek (Marshal) - crossed batons

In 1950, source saw majors wearing garrison caps with appropriate insignia.

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ANNEX B Polish Insignia and ranks



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